



## **Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association**

To the Senate Judicial Proceedings

March 15, 2022

Senate Bill 745- Vehicle Laws – Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders-  
Exception

### **POSITION: Letter of concern**

Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in opposition of Senate Bill 745 which would allow changes to Maryland’s universal motorcycle helmet law.

MRHA is concerned that this law would put many rural Marylanders and beyond at risk for severe head injury and death. Motorcycle accidents can still occur, even involving those most experienced at driving motorcycles. Easing these safety standards would unnecessarily put citizens and operators at risk, increasing the strain on hospital emergency departments in rural areas where trauma care is already in short supply, and increasing strain on other clinical sites in rural Maryland where trained medical staff is limited. The long-term traumatic effects of motorcycle accidents not only affect those involved but have dire implications on rural medical triage systems.

MRHA’s mission is to educate and advocate for the optimal health and wellness of rural communities and their residents. Membership is comprised of health departments, hospitals, community health centers, health professionals, and community members in rural Maryland.

Our top legislative priority this year is to “advance and support initiatives that respond to rural health care workforce needs, critical shortages, and future pipelines along with preventing workplace violence.”

MHRA thanks you for your consideration.

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